

Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission
Commission Meeting
March 21, 2013

The Commission Meeting for the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission was held on Thursday March 21, 2013, at The Sloppy Floyd Government Office Building 2 MLK Jr. Drive Atlanta, GA 30334.

The following Commissioners were present:	Others Present:
Moses Ector- Vice Chairman Hunter Towns Rick Thompson Ben Kiker	Kelly Farr- Executive Director Matt Woodruff Attorney General Office [Graham Barron] Opie Bowen Vincent Zagorin Sean Doro Andrew Stokes
	David Oblas Megan Swartslander Keith McDermott

Vice Chairman Moses Ector established that a quorum was present and the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission meeting that were scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. was called to order at 10:55 a.m.

Motion to Approve the commission meeting minutes from February 21st, 2013. Commissioner Rick Thompson makes a motion to approve, and Commissioner Ben Kiker seconds that motion. The commission votes 3-0 to approve.

Investigation Report from Vincent Zagorin on David Leach. Mr. Zagorin stated that someone had bought tickets from Mr. Leach in the past and that there was an issue over those tickets. The customer stated that he did not want those tickets, so Mr. Leach said he was going to cancel all the other tickets that he had purchase. Mr. Leach was not a licensed ticket broker at the time of this, and was given the contact information for Andy Foster to contact him about becoming licensed. Mr. Foster did not want to order a cease and desist on him. Commissioner Thompson wanted to know if he was licensed now, and Matt Woodruff said that he was not. Mr. Zagorin stated that he was not aware if David Leach is still selling tickets. Vincent said that we could reach out to him and see if he is still doing this. Vice Chairman Ector said that the issue is that Mr. Leach was not licensed by the state. Commissioner Thompson makes a motion that we reach out to Mr. Leach to see if he is still active then we order a cease and desist at that time. Commissioner Kiker seconds and the Commission votes 4-0 to approve the motion.

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Motion to Approve the April 6th, 2013 MMA Combat Quest event permit. Mr. Woodruff stated that all the proper paperwork has been submitted. Commissioner Thompson wanted to know what happened at the last Combat Quest event with the ISKA, with a fighter possibly fighting without turning in blood work. Mr. Woodruff explained that the fighters stated that their medicals were faxed to the office; however they were not received in the office. Mr. Woodruff stated that he received the medicals after the fight. Commissioner Thompson wanted to know how ISKA turns in the paperwork and if it is allowed to be turned in late. Kelly Farr said that ISKA is fairly new to him; however the process is that ISKA collects the paperwork at the events and then mail it in to the GAEC. Commissioner Thompson said that there is an issue with a fighter fighting without supplying blood work. Mr. Farr said that with the next show we are going to send Mr. Woodruff to make sure that everything is handled correctly. Commissioner Thompson thinks we should direct the ISKA to say if the fighter does not have everything turned in at the weigh in then they do not fight. There is no such thing as later. Have the representative email the commission saying that all paperwork is submitted and if you do not get that email then cancel the fight or event. Commissioner Kiker wants to know who is responsible for the mistake of not collecting paperwork, and Commissioner Thompson blames the ISKA for not knowing the rules. Commissioner Kiker makes a motion to approve the event permit, and Commissioner Hunter Towns seconds the motion. The commission votes 4-0 to approve the event.

Motion by Commissioner Thompson that all regulatory agencies overseeing the fight collect all of the proper paperwork needed by each fighter, and email the GAEC to say that they have received all paperwork. If someone does not turn in the proper paperwork then they do not fight. Commissioner Kiker seconds that motion, and the Commission votes 4-0.

Motion to Approve the June 14th, 2013 MMA Fight Party Productions event permit. Vice Chairman Ector asked if all the paperwork has been submitted, and Mr. Woodruff stated that is everything was turned in. Commissioner Thompson makes a motion to approve the event. Commissioner Kiker seconds and the Commission votes 4-0 to approve.

Motion to Approve the change on the event permit for April 20th, 2013 Harley-Davidson of Cartersville. Vice Chairman Ector would like to know what the change is, and Mr. Woodruff states that this event permit was approved at the February meeting as an all amateur show; however since that time he wishes to add a pro fight to this event. Commissioner Thompson makes a motion to approve the change. Commissioner Kiker seconds and the Commission votes 4-0 to approve the change.

Motion to Approve of Doro, Inc. promoter's license application. Mr. Woodruff stated that he spoke with Mr. Doro about coming and he has not yet made it to the meeting. Commissioner Towns makes a motion to table. Commissioner Thompson seconds, and the Commission votes 4-0 to table.

Motion to Approve of Conflict MMA promoter's license application. Mr. Woodruff stated that Andrew Stokes is the promoter for this company. Vice Chairman Ector

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asked if all of his paperwork has been submitted and Mr. Woodruff stated that everything was turned in. Andrew Stokes wanted to thank the board for letting him come and have the possibility of working in Georgia. He wants to put on some shows down in the Savannah area. Vice Chairman Ector wanted to know if he has ever promoted shows before and Mr. Stokes said he has been doing shows for about 14 years in South Carolina. Mr. Stokes said that he has some friends in Savannah who want him to put on a show, and he checked to see if anyone promotes in the area, which he didn't see, so that is why he wants to start working in Georgia. Vice Chairman Ector wants to know if he ever has any problems putting on shows and getting matches, and Mr. Stokes said he has never had any issues besides the typical no-show of a fighter. Commissioner Kiker wants to know when and what he is going to promote. Mr. Stokes said that he wishes to start in May and he will only promote MMA. Commissioner Towns makes a motion to approve, and Vice Chairman Ector seconds. The commission votes 4-0 to approve.

Motion to Approve the May 11th, 2013 MMA Conflict MMA event permit. Vice Chairman Ector asked if everything was submitted, and Mr. Woodruff stated that all paperwork was submitted on time and is complete. Commissioner Thompson makes a motion to approve. Commissioner Towns seconds and the Commission votes 4-0 to approve the event.

Follow up Discussion on impact testing. Mr. Woodruff stated that in February, Dr. Malik came to talk about adding impact testing for licensure. Dr. Malik stated that Pennsylvania had made that a requirement, and we reached out to Pennsylvania to see how they do it, and they informed us that they do not require it. They recommend it for all of their fighters, however it is almost impossible to fully regulate it because fighters come always coming from out of state. Mr. Woodruff stated that the board wanted to see some rules draft, and he asked if they still want us to draft them now that we do not have anyone to mirror. Vice Chairman Ector wants to make sure that this is fully enforceable; otherwise there is no point in adding it to the rules. Commissioner Thompson wanted to know what the problem was in Pennsylvania on why they cannot regulate it. Opie Bowen stated that he spoke the Commissioner from Pennsylvania and he said they conducted a survey to see if any states did this testing, which no one currently does. Mr. Bowen said that the problem was the follow up with the test, especially for the fighters who are out of state or from out of the country. Vice Chairman Ector said it is going to be very hard to enforce. Commissioner Thompson said he is worried since there is so much about concussions right now, he doesn't want to invent the wheel, but he does want to get ahead of it. He feels that we need to do something. Commissioner Thompson wants to see if the Secretary of State's office can look into this to see if it can be done, and how much time it would take to work this into the rules. Commissioner Kiker wants to setup a trial run of 6 months to have fighters take this test. Commissioner Thompson wants the Secretary of State to look into it, see how you can follow up on this test, see how much time it takes and report back to the board.

Discussion with headgear in kickboxing. Mr. Woodruff said that he has had a promoter call in regards to what the rules are with headgear. Mr. Woodruff stated that the ISKA for all amateurs require headgear however; the GAEC has a policy in place

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that after 3 fights you do not have to wear the headgear pending both fighters have over 3 fights. Mr. Woodruff stated that the problem is that we have nothing written down stating the rules with headgear. Kelly Farr said that there is no data base for amateur kickboxing, so we cannot validate if the fighters have the 3 fights or not. Commissioner Kiker stated that why can't the ISKA and IKF handle the rules for headgear if they are the ones who are running the shows. Mr. Woodruff stated that there are joint shows where the GAEC will regulate some kickboxing matches. Commissioner Thompson wanted to know if headgear is in ISKA rules, and Mr. Woodruff stated that he spoke with Mark Maske, ISKA rep, and he said that headgear is required for all amateurs. Commissioner Kiker said that headgear is important for the first 3 fights. Commissioner Thompson said to pull the ISKA rule and bring it to the board for follow up discussion. David Oblas wanted to know what the rule is now, and Commissioner Thompson said to stick with the policy as of now. Commissioner Kiker said what if one fighter wants to wear and the other does not. Mr. Oblas said if one fighter wants to wear it, then they have to wear headgear.

Motion to Approve of Doro Inc. promoter's license application. Vice Chairman Ector asked Sean Doro why he wants to promote. Mr. Doro said that he wants to go forward with Mixed Martial Arts and that he has been doing it for a little over a year, and he has been working with other MMA fighters. Vice Chairman asked if has ever promoted anywhere else, and Mr. Doro said this is his first time at it. Commissioner Kiker wanted to know if he was a trainer who wants to promote and Mr. Doro said he is not a trainer. Vice Chairman Ector said the only experience is working with others. Commissioner Towns wants to know about the marketing. Mr. Doro said that there is a company in Alabama they might work with, or a local marketing company to help them out. Commissioner Thompson wants to know who the matchmaker is for him, and Mr. Doro said Jorge Rodriguez. Commissioner Kiker wants to know Jorge Rodriguez's background. Jorge Rodriguez said that he started boxing at age 14. He also is 5-1 in pro MMA. Kelly Farr said that if they choose to co-promote a show that both would need to have a license. Mr. Doro said that they do have a license, in Alabama. Mr. Farr said they would need to be licensed in Georgia also. Commissioner Towns makes a motion to approve, Commissioner Kiker seconds. The commission votes 4-0 to approve.

Discussion with David Oblas about boxing in a cage. He wants to make sure that he is on the agenda for next month so that people can do their homework. Vice Chairman Ector asked Mr. Woodruff if he has done any research on this. Mr. Woodruff stated that he sent out a survey through the ABC to get some feedback on this topic, per Mr. Oblas request, and the votes was 18-1 in favor of states not allowing. Kelly Farr said that it is up to the Chairman to determine what is on the agenda. Commissioner Thompson would like to at least hear a discussion on this.

Discussion with Keith McDermott about his business Hydration Station. He wishes to further talk with the board about what all his company does, and providing services to fighters post weigh in to get them rehydrated. Commissioner Thompson wants to know why he wants the board's approval. Mr. McDermott said that since it would be a medical procedure, he wants to make sure that he is doing everything correctly.

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Commissioner Thompson said since it is a medical procedure, that the commissioner Doctors should take a look at this to see if they have any issues with this.

Motion to adjourn. Commissioner Thompson makes the motion, Vice Chairman Ector seconds and the commission voted 4-0 to adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.